THE EXCITER

Formerly Called Gutter Dope, Established in 1934.

Published Free of Charge Monthly by The San Antonio Radio Club.

VOL. 3, NO. 5 MAY, 1960 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

VHF AND UP

April was a good month for VHF. A surface duct from So. Texas to Florida occurred for several days on 7 April. Weather condx felt just right to Derwin King, W5LUU, and when he got home from St. Mary's U. at 2230, he opened up on 2 meters. Derwin worked W4GJO, W4DPD, K4IXC, in Florida, W5GIX, Baton Rouge, W5IVF, Covington, La., W5DDJ and K5JNW, Houston, till 0030 CST. Signals were terrific.

Bright and early on 8 April at 0610, Derwin again worked K4IXC, Melbourne, Fla., K4ZDV, Miami, and W5KTD, Shreveport. That night at 2000, W4DPD, Fla., was heard weakly. This was the best DX (1190 mi.) for W5LUU in 10 years on 2 meters.

W5HFF, Ross Lawler, also worked many of the gang and heard stations all over the Gulf states. Ross reports that police cars in SA were bothered by cars in Miami and one SA policeman talked to a Florida dispatcher on his handy talkie.

Dallas did not have an opening at all as the stationary weather front was south of Dallas across the Gulf to Florida. The duct is due to a temperature inversion and the path is similar to being inside of VHF waveguide.

The 50 mc. boys reaped theirs on 6 April 60 when transequatorial (TE) propagation took place. K500J worked CE 3BM, Chili, at 2135 CST, CX9AJ, Uruguay, at 2243, and heard XEIGE at the same time. K5RGO also worked CE3BM and CX9AJ.

On 18 April, K5VTR worked TG9JW in the evening and K5OOJ worked PY7AN, Brazil, at 1940. K500J heard TG9JW and CE3BM. The TE season looks quite good this year and was joined in also by W5KRH and K5HVC. K5HVC sprechen sie Espanol with the So. Am. boys and really works them fast.

Earlier, on 25 Mar 60, at 1300 CST K500J worked LU3EX, LU3DCA, LU4DFN via F2. Bill is up to 44 of 50 states.

Things out of this world were happening fast and often during April. The orbiting Brownie camera or TIROS I weather satellite has sent back over 2000 photos from 450 mile up, using two 2 watt transmitters on 235 mc. The writer has received the .03 w. beacon TXs on 108.000 and 108.030 mc. for up to 13 min. on a pass. The 235 mc. TX comes on only when commanded over New Jersey or Hawaii.

TRANSIT I-B, the navigation satellite is the nearest ESV that might be receivable on a six meter receiver or TV set. It transmits on 54, 162, 216, and 324 mc. tho not continuously. The writer has received passes on 216 mc. with quite good signals, tho the passes do not agree with close orbit times. It could be the super-regenerative RX I'm using is slightly aus-gesqkelched! Good luck.

Cal Graf, W5LFM

DX NOTES

April has been a month of good band conditions. Ten and fifteen meters opened nearly every morning to Europe; and nearly every afternoon to Africa, So. America, Asia and

Editor ..... Theo Jett W50ZQ
VHF Editor ..... Cal Graf W5LFM
DX Editor ..... Len Parsons W5LGG
Mobile Editor ..... Gene Jank W5EJT
Programs ..... Cole Crump W5DKF
Contributing Editors: Derwin King W5LUU, Ray Wangler W5EDZ, Willard Carmack W5FND
Advertising Manager ..... Chuck Hildebrandt K5VCR
Mailing and Publications ..... Ruth Jank K5OPT

The Exciter is published each month free of charge by The San Antonio Radio Club. The club meets on the first and third Fridays' of each month in The Conference Room of The Perry Shankle Co. at 1801 S. Flores. For any information concerning The San Antonio Radio Club, address your inquiries to The Editor, P. O. Box 62, San Antonio 1, Texas.

Oceania. The only evidence that the Sunspot peak has passed is in the increasing prevalance of Q. S. B. Good ole' 20 has been open nearly around the clock; with especially good signals from Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East coming in Mornings Via the long path. Point that beam SW around 7 a.m. When you can hear them, you usually can work them.

DX Question box: How do the DXCC leaders stay atop the countries worked list year after year? Do they spend all of their time on the air? Well, as might be guessed, the law of diminishing returns enters into the picture at this point. A DX man with 290 countries worked might listen every free moment for months and hear absolutely nothing new, then take a quick break and miss that new one needed to keep him on top. To avoid such a calamity, and to avoid the long hours of fruitless listening, the top DX'ers nearly all observe the following practices:

(1) They subscribe to the specialized DX journals to keep abreast of wrat is new, when and where. They plan their operating time so as to be on hand at such times.

(2) They make frequent use of schedules. Since writing directly for a schedule is to no avail ninety-five percent of the time they arrange their schedules through overseas DX friends who are on good terms with Mr. Rare one. Nearly all of the top DX'ers resort to schedules where the new DX station is known to put in a limited amount of operating time.

(3) Top DX'ers make use of the "Buddy" system. Not the painful plea to a DX station being worked to (please listen for my friend W5XXX on this frequency who will ball you now). This practice leads only to bedlam, and is guaranteed to win enemies and infuriate people. Instead, their "Buddy" system consists of exchanging (countries needed) lists with other DX'ers. Then, whenever your friend hears a country that you need. he calls you on the land line and tips you off that "FR7ZD is on 14072, long path, T-7; go get him! Some DX'ers exchange lists clear across the country with instructions to call collect at any hour of the day or night if you hear one that they need.

(4) They QSLLLLLL!

Well, that's how it's done. Anyone for Pinochle?

73 and DX Len

Sherman Electronics Supply, Inc.

722 SAN PEDRO

CA 6-0247

ALL SPRAGUE CATALOG ITEMS IN STOCK

ANOTHER HAM PARTY AT SKIPPERS'

Willard W5FND threw a party at Skippers Restaurant across from the Airport a couple of weeks ago, and it was really enjoyed by one and all. The music was good the fellowship was enjoyed, and the Bull Sessions were held to a minimum. Believe it or not, just about everyone was dancing most of the time, (this includes W5VPQ). The party lasted till after midnight, at which time it broke up, and the Choral Group??? gathered out in front of the Restaurant and gave fourth with a few strains?? of "Home on The Range". After this Serenade of International Airport was finished, everyone went over to Cole Boys' house, and had Bacon, Eggs, and Coffee.

The next morning everyone (??) got up bright and early and hid easter eggs, rabbits, etc. and then went back to bed. Thanks to Willard and Mary everyone had a wonderful time.

MOBILE

The mobile column is kind of short this month due to a lot of the fellows working at odd hours, and a seige of equipment troubles. (quit squeezing that last drop out of the rig fellows.)

Some recent fellows on 75 have been K5UQT Norm, W5ZPV Chuck K5ISA Bill, W5YXV Fred.

K5VFB Guy, is moving to Houston, and we will miss him around here. He was really getting to be a regular on 75, 40, and 10, on the Mobile Freqs.

Rumor has it that K5RMT Charlie, will be Mobile soon if he can get the rig to work right.

We heard that K5AHG Gene, has been visiting our fair city from "Big H". Welcome Friend, and come back more often.

73's Gene

FIELD DAY

Here is the latest report on Field Day, by your Field Day Chairman Theo Jett W5OZQ. We are going to try to have the activity out at Woodlawn Lake again this year, but the Parks Dept. Supt. has passed the word that the Lake may be drained at that time, and heavy equipment may be stored on the Island, which would hinder Field Day activity. In the event that there is difficulty of this kind, he has assured us that he will find us a suitable place for our Field Day activity.

The following is a run-down on who is in charge of the various Field Day stations.

80 CW—(This is open at this time.)

75 Fone—John Breitler W5CTL

40 CW—Derwin King W5LUU

40 Fone—Cole Crump W5DKF

VISIT THE
KIT KORNER and see
the best in AM-FM and HI FI KITS
MADE BY
ARKAY

We buy, sell, trade and repair new and used HAM EQUIPMENT. Ask 'Hank' for the best deal in town on new gear

ALLIED ELECTRONIC SUPPLY
1012 So. Presa 'HANK' K5HYF Mgr. LE 6-0121

20 CW—Walt Gunkel W5HHO

20 Fone—Ralph Cole W5THU

15 CW—Robbie Rice K5SJB

15 Fone—Gene Jank W5EJT

10 Fone—The Ladies Club (assisted by W5RSD).

6 Fone—Newt Bodine K5PIB

2 Fone—The Ladies Club (assisted by W5FND).

These are not all of the people that will be participating in Field Day, but are the ones that are in charge of the different stations. If you want to participate in Field Day this year, and we hope that you do, contact these above mentioned people, and volunteer your services. I am sure they will be glad to get some help on most any station. If you are not out at the Lake helping W5SC win first place, by all means stay home and give us a contact on as many bands as possible. We will need it this year in order to beat W2 land cut of First place.

GUTTER DOPE

Everyone has been comenting on the theory classes K5GUH Red has been conducting at Modern Electronics Co. on Saturday afternoons starting at about 3 p.m. each Saturday. No joke, they say the guy really knows his stuff.

The many friends of W3BIA/5 Albert Poole, owner of the CQ Ice House here in San Antonio will be sad to haer of his passing on to the land of bigger and betetr DX on Feb. 3 of this year. Our condolences to his widow.

You should have seen all the Hams out at St. Mary's every Monday night taking in the transistor sectures. We just might have some smarter Hams here in the Alamo City because of these lectures, who knows.

Congratulations are in order for W5VPQ George, for being appointed net control for The South Texas Emergency Net. The net has been going through some difficult times and George has stuck with them and I am sure will try to keep the Net together, but he could use some more local support. So how about it fellows? The net meets every Wednesday at 1800 hrs. on 3860 kc.

The ALAMO YL's have issued twenty five certificates to date. One of their certificates is on display at Modern Electronics, on the bulletin board.

We just got a reminder for everyone not to forget the West Gulf Division Convention in Dallas this year on June 17, 18, and 19th.

K5OPS Ethel, has accepted the office of Vice-President of the TYLRUN due to a vacancy which came up. So, anyone working for the certificate should mail their application to:

MODERN ELECTRONICS CO.

2000 Broadway

CA 7-7388

See Our New Line of Panel Meters & other Amateur Equipment

Fred K5ENK Paul K5OHG Jim K5TYI

Ethel Chastain 4338 Seabrook, San Antonio, Tex. Any station to be eligible for a certificate must work 25 or more members of the net, and send their confirmations to the custodian with their application.

Red K5GUH is starting a code instruction class every night from 1900 to 2000 hours on 3750 kcs. Monday thru Friday sponsored by Radio and T. V. Parts, and Don Fitzsimons. He is going to run it for the first week at five words per minute. That way, most of us can copy it for at least one week.

It has been rumored that Tommy K5UNG is going to start a surplus class, to teach the Hams how to be Surplus Hounds. Could be. Could be.

W5DKF

Cole Crump is Vice-President of the San Antonio Radio Club. He has been licensed since 1950 and has served as Editor of Gutter Dope, Secretary of the Club, and was "Field Day" Chairman in 1959 the year the Club scored second in the nation. Cole and his XYL, Leona and their three children live at 82 Pilgrim Dr. His equipment consists of a HT32 4-400 Lin. Amp. which is homebrew and a Drake receiver with a Tri-bander Beam. His mobile is a Morrow receiver and Elmac transmitter. Cole likes to tinker in his spare time and go transmitter hunting. Cole is co-owner of the Industrial Radio Communications Co.

K5HLP

Alden "woody" Wood has had his General ticket since 1958. Woody as he is known by his friends, and his XYL Hattie Mae and 3 children live at 143 Red Rock Dr. Woody works at Kelly as an aircraft maintenance Electronic Inspector. He has been interested in amateur radio many years, but got side-tracked by hotrods for several years, but says the hobby was getting to be a bit too messy. So he switched back to his first love and became a Ham. Woody has a Ranger and SXLOO with a Wonder Bar antenna. He is going mobile soon with a homebrew 2C26 which will be crystal control on 40 meters.

W5VY

Joe C. "Pat" Patterson has been licensed since 1921 and through the years, has held the calls of W5VU, W5EHM, and W5VY the one he now holds. Pat has worked 214 countries with his homebrew rig. He runs a killowatt on all bands. On 6 Meters he has WAC, 48 states and 26 countries worked, and he uses a six element beam. Pat held the record at one time of having worked the fartherest distance on 2 Meters, which was 1200 miles into Ohio. On 2 meters, he uses a 32 element beam along with his homebrew kilowatt. At present he is active on SSB, and for once he went for a commercial rig, using Collins equipment. All this should make some of us want to get busy and build our

We Feature:
RCA SPECIAL PURPOSE TUBES
Plus . . .
B and W
ANTENNA SPECIALIST
ADVANCE RELAYS
LEROY K5UMR
RAY W5IWE
AL-K5PVI
ASTATIC
BUD
NATIONAL
FRO W5FY
BILL K5HYG
RCA AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR
The PERRY SHANKLE Company
1801 SOUTH FLORES CA 3-1801 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

own equipment. Pat works for The Dept. Of Defense as an Electronic Engineer.

A good technician, is one who can keep a straight face while repairing a do-it-yourself project.

XMTR BARGAIN

B & W 5100, used very little and like new—$275.00.

JOHNSON MATCHBOX, like new—$27.00. Bob White, W5EBX. 717 Canterbury Hill, TA 4-4568 or TA 6-6635.

RADIO & TELEVISION PARTS CO.

1828 N. St. Mary's St. CA 6-5329 or CA 7-7503

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR APOLOGIES FOR THE CODE CLASS DELAY. OUR TAPES DID NOT ARRIVE. WE WILL BEGIN MAY 23.

COME BUY A NEW RECEIVER IN THE MEANTIME SO THAT YOU WILL BE READY.

WE ARE EXCLUSIVE DEALERS FOR E-Z WAY CRANK UP TOWERS

BILL CASE **9 'til 9**

Sound | *Center*

3522 BROADWAY **TA 2-1341**

THE EXCITER
P. O. BOX 62
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 1029

George Munsch W5VPQ
323 McNeel Rd.
City

FORM 3547 REQUESTED